

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4516

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJECT: KOMEITO FACED WITH LOCAL CHAPTER REVOLT IN NAGOYA
MAYORALTY ELECTION CAMPAIGN

SUMMARY: KOMEITO LEADERS, INTENT ON SHEDDING MODERATE IMAGE
IN FAVOR OF STRONGER OPPOSITION COLORATION, DECIDED TO JOIN
JSP AND JCP IN JOINT STRUGGLE TO ELECT REFORMIST CANDIDATE
MAYOR OF NAGOYA IN APRIL 22 ELECTION, BUT LOCAL CHAPTER IN
AICHI PREFECTURE EMBARRASSED THEM BY REFUSING TO DEPART
FROM TRADITIONAL ANTI- JCP POSITION. LOCAL MEMBERS ALSO
FEEL OBLIGED TO REPAY FAVOR TO INCUMBENT CONSERVATIVE
MAYOR, WHO HELPED REELECT KOMEITO DIETMAN PAST DECEMBER.
AS RESULT, KOMEITO GOES INTO ELECTION IN DISARRAY, TO ADVAN-
TAGE OF INCUMBENT. END SUMMARY.

1. KOMEITO NATIONAL LEADERSHIP, CURRENTLY TRYING TO
INCREASE PARTY ATTRACTION BY STRENGTHENING OPPOSITION- PARTY
COZQRATION, HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY EMBARRASSED BY OBDURATE REFUSAL
OF AICHI PREFECTURE CHAPTER TO ABIDE BY THEIR DECISION
TO JOIN JSP- JCP JOINT STRUGGLE TO SUPPORT REFORMIST
CANDIDATE MASAO MOTOYAMA IN APRIL 22 NAGOYA MAYORALTY
ELECTION. INCUMBENT CONSERVATIVE KIYOSHI SUGITO IS RUNNING
FOR FOURTH TERM AS INDEPENDENT, BACKED BY LDP, AND TACITLY
SUPPORTED BY DSP WHICH HAS FREED MEMBERS TO VOTE AS THEY
CHOOSE, I. E., AGAINST MOYUYAMA.

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2. AICHI CHAPTER MEMBERS INSIST THEY CANNOT SUPPORT JSP- JCP CANDIDATE MOTOYAMA, WHOM THEY CHARGE IS CLOSE TO JCP, WHICH KOMEITO FROM VERY INCEPTION HAD BEEN PORTRAYING AS ARCH- ENEMY. THEIR MOOD FURTHER REINFORCED BY DEEP SENSE OF OBLIGATION TO MAYOR SUGITO, WHO, ACCORDING TO MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS, DIVERTED ENOUGH OICRXLOTES IN DECEMBER 10 GENERAL ELECTION TO ASSURE RETURN OF KOMEITO DIETMAN KOSHIRO ISHIDA TO LOWER HOUSE SEAT HE LOST IN 1969.

3. INTRA- PARTY DISPUTE WAS MADE PUBLIC WITH KOMEITO STATEMENT MARCH 30 DECLARING THAT PARTY WOULD PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN NAGOYA MAYORALTY CAMPAIGN TO BRING VICTORY TO REFORMIST CAMP. REPORTS OF LOCAL RESISTANCE TO THIS POLICY LED CHAIRMAN YOSHIKATSU TAKEIRI AND SYG JUNYA YANTO TO SUMMON AICHI CHAPTER CHAIRMAN KUNIHICO SHIBUYA TO EMERGENCY MEETING AT PARTY HEADQUARTERS APRIL 3. SHIBUYA REPORTED INABILITY TO UNIFY VIEWS OF LOCAL CHAPTER AND OFFERED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY BY RESIGNING TOGETHER WITH LOCAL SECRETARY TOMI BABA. IN PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH FOLLOWED, YANO ANNOUNCED THAT PARTY LEADERS HAD REJECTED SHIBUYA AND BABA OFFER TO RESIGN AND INSTRUCTED THEM TO CONTINUE EFFORT TO UNIFY AICHI CHAPTER SUPPORT ALONG LINES OF CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DEMANDS. SHIBUYA REPORTEDLY AGREED TO TRY BUT INDICATED THAT HE WAS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT PROSPECTS.

4. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS APRIL 5, KOMEITO INTERNATIONAL BUREAU DIRECTOR AKIRA KUROYANAGI ADMITTED THAT UNYIELDING ANTI- JCP ATTITUDE OF RANK- AND- FILE EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH, BUT EXPLAINED THAT PARTY LEADERS HAVE DECIDED THAT BEST CHANCE FOR KOMEITO TO RECOUP LOSSES SUFFERED IN DECEMBER 10 GENERAL ELECTION LIES IN TACTICAL SHIFT TO LEFT, TO SHED MODERATE IMAGE AND INCREASE OPPOSITION PARTY COLORATION. SHIFT INCLUDES PARTICIPATION IN JOINT ELECTION STRUGGLES WITH JSP, AND EVEN JCP ON OCCASION. KUROYANAGI CHARGED SHIBUYA AND LOCAL CHAPTER MEMBERS WITH QTE POLITICAL NAIVETE UNQTE FOR THEIR REFUSAL TO OVERLOOK PROMISES MADE TO MAYOR SUGITO AND THEIR INABILITY TO QTE UNDERSTAND LARGER NEEDS OF KOMEITO UNQTE. KUROYANAGI PREDICTED THAT SHIBUYA WOULD BE REMOVED FROM PARTY POST, AFTER NAGOYA ELECTION, BY CHAIRMAN TAKEIRI WHO FURIOUS OVER THIS DEVELOPMENT.
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KUROYANAGI ALSO INDICATED THAT PARTY LEADERS THREATENED

TO DENY SHIBUYA OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT AS KOMEITO CANDIDATE
IN HIS BID FOR REELECTION TO THIRD TERM IN HOUSE OF
COUNCILLORS IN 1974.

5. COMMENT: WHILE NAGOYA CONTRETEMPS HAS PROVEN
TO BE ACUTELY EMBARRASSING FOR KOMEITO, ONLY FUTURE
CAN TELL WHETHER IT ALSO EDUCATIONAL. LIKELIHOOD IS
STRONG, GIVEN DEEP ROOTED KOMEITO ATTITUDE OF HOSTILITY
TO JCP, THAT PARTY LEADERSHIP' S DECISION TO CONDUCT JOINT
STRUGGLE WITH JCP IN LOCAL ELECTIONS WILL ENCOUNTER
SIM NAR RANK- AND- RILE RESISTANCE ELSEWHERE. IN FACT,
LOWER HOUSE MEMBER ICHIRO WATANABE HAS ALREADY CONFIDED
TO EMBOFFS THAT HE WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PLACE WHISHES
OF HIS STRONGLY ANTI- JCP LOCAL CONSTITUENTS ABOVE THOSE OF
PARTY LEADERS, SHOULD LEADERS DECIDE TO JOINTLY SUPPORT
CANDIDATE ALSO BACKED BY JCP IN KOBE MAYORALTY ELECTION
TO BE HELD EARLY IN OCTOBER.
INGERSOLL

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